

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

C' In preferred embodiments of the invention, memory devices 2B-3B comprise contact memory devices, and each memory device may be uniquely associated with an identifying code. Contact memories generically comprise physical devices that attach directly to an object and can be read through active or passive contact with a reading device. Typically contact memories are approximately the size of a clothing button, and comprise a stainless steel container housing a small memory chip inside. Information can usually be written to the contact memory through temporary active or passive contact with the contact memory as well. In preferred embodiments of the invention, memory devices 2B-3B comprise a commercially available iButton® contact memory device, the mechanical and technical standards for which are incorporated hereby by reference. Memory devices 2B-3B may also comprise, in addition to contact memories, read only memory (ROM) devices, electronically erasable programmable read only memory (EEPROM) devices, electronically programmable read only memory (EPROM) devices, random access memory (RAM) devices, static random access memory (SRAM) devices, static bar codes, or any other device that is small in size, can be easily and permanently attached to a physical object, can store large quantities and varied types of information, and can withstand extreme weather conditions without losing or damaging the information stored therein and/or thereon. The information is stored in and/or on the memory device in a format suitable for the type of memory device used, extensible markup language or hypertext markup language comprising the preferred format.